

November 8, 2000



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Air Pollution Inhalation Chambers Dedicated for Human Health Research

Online Media Kit available at [www.epa.gov/nheerl/dedication](http://www.epa.gov/nheerl/dedication)

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Research Triangle Park, NC....The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development will hold a dedication ceremony at its Human Studies Facility in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, **on Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** to mark the completion and availability of eight state-of-the-art inhalation chambers.

The research facility houses the EPA's Human Studies Division of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory. The inhalation chambers represent state-of-the-art technology for conducting studies to advance the science of the human health effects of air pollutants.

"This dedication will unveil the Human Studies Facility as a national resource for human health research," says Dr. Hillel Koren, Director of EPA's Human Studies Division. "We are working to make these high-tech research tools available to other scientists."

The eight human inhalation chambers and *in vitro* (cell culture) exposure chambers are shared by EPA and University of North Carolina scientists through a cooperative agreement. Because these chambers are such unique research tools, the chambers will also be made available to outside scientists conducting air pollution research and other areas of environmental health in the public interest.

The dedication ceremony will be attended by national and international scientists, representatives from research institutions and local, state, and regional dignitaries. The Keynote Speaker for the dedication ceremony will be Dr. Norine Noonan, Assistant Administrator for the EPA's Office of Research and Development. Other invited speakers are: Dr. Lawrence Reiter, Director of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory; Dr. Jeffrey Houpt, Dean of UNC's School of Medicine; Dr. Thomas Curran, Deputy Director of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards; and Dr. William Glaze, Director of the Carolina Environmental Program at UNC.

As part of the celebration, the EPA will sponsor a Symposium by invitation entitled "Air Pollution and Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Seminar Room at the Chapel Hill facility. The symposium will feature four internationally-renowned experts who will discuss the role of health-effects research in assessing the risks air pollutants may pose to humans.

**Note to Editors: A media tour of the Human Studies Facility and inhalation chambers is available at 11 a.m. following the ceremony. The media is also invited to attend the Symposium. To participate in a tour or attend the Symposium, please contact Ann Brown at 919-493-7818 or by cellular telephone the day of the event at 919-605-5827.**